

IN THE CLAIMS

1-27 (canceled)

28. (new) An aqueous concentrate stable on freezing and thawing and comprising at least one water-soluble or water-dispersible copper compound and optionally also a water-soluble or water-dispersible tin compound, for use in the diluted state as a bath for the currentless coppering or bronzing of objects, in particular metallic objects such as for example iron or steel wires, wherein starting from basic copper carbonate and complex-forming agent(s), the concentrate comprises at least one complexed water-soluble or water-dispersed copper compound formed therefrom and optionally also a residue of basic copper carbonate.

29. (new) The aqueous concentrate according to claim 28, wherein at least 40 wt.% of the total amount of said water-soluble or water-dispersible copper compounds are complexed.

30. (new) An aqueous concentrate according to claim 29, wherein the at least one copper compound is at least partially complexed with a complexing agent based on at least one or monohydroxycarboxylic, dihydroxycarboxylic, trihydroxycarboxylic or polyhydroxycarboxylic acid, phosphonic acid, diphosphonic acid or a derivative thereof.

31. (new) An aqueous concentrate according to claim 28 wherein that it is stable to freezing and thawing down to at least -8°C.

32. (new) An aqueous concentrate according to claim 29, having a copper content in the range from 3 to 200 g/l Cu.

33. (new) An aqueous concentrate according to claim 28, adjusted to a pH value in the range from 4 to 11.

34. (new) An aqueous bath comprising at least one water-soluble or water-dispersible copper compound and optionally also a water-soluble or water-dispersible tin

compound, for the currentless coppering or bronzing of objects, wherein starting from basic copper carbonate and a complex-forming agent, wherein the bath contains at least one complexed water-soluble or water-dispersed copper compound formed therefrom, at least one brightening agent and optionally also a residue of basic copper carbonate, and is adjusted to a pH value of less than 2.5.

35. (new) An aqueous bath according to claim 34, wherein at least 40 wt.% of the contained copper compounds are complexed.
36. (new) An aqueous bath according to claim 34, having a copper content in the range from 0.05 to 120 g/l.
37. (new) An aqueous bath according to claim 34, wherein the iron content is up to at least 90 g/l Fe^{2+} .
38. (new) An aqueous bath according to claim 34, wherein the iron content is up to at least 110 g/l Fe^{2+} .
39. (new) An aqueous bath according to claim 34, wherein the at least one copper compound is a compound that is at least partially complexed with a complex-forming agent based on at least one complexing monohydroxycarboxylic, dihydroxycarboxylic, trihydroxycarboxylic and/or polyhydroxycarboxylic acid, phosphonic acid, diphosphonic acid or a derivative thereof.